



VOL. XXVIII.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 12, 1860.

NO. 30.



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

THE STRAWBERRY SEASON.

The drouth of the season has been unfavorable to the native strawberries of the fields. The berry is small, and there are not so many of them as in more moist seasons. This is an argument in favor of having a strawberry bed in your garden, which you can manage at your leisure, water if the season be dry, and where you can obtain a supply without wandering over the fields in quest of them. In commencing the culture of strawberries, you will be puzzled in looking over the lists of nurserymen, to know which to select from the numerous kinds there named and recommended. We believe that it may be had down as a general rule, founded upon a somewhat extensive experience, that the foreign varieties (English) do not fruit very well in our country; or, in other words, they do not produce berries so abundantly as varieties that have originated in our own country. This may be owing to the difference in climate.

It has also been found that there is a difference in the perfection of the flowers of some varieties of strawberries. A perfect flower should have two kinds of organs within, called pistils and stamens. The pistils are short thread-like filaments growing up out of the seed germ, and the stamens are similar organs growing from other parts of the flower and generally surrounding the pistils. The pollen, or dust of the stamens, must fall upon the pistils in order to insure the growth of the berry. If there be no stamens and pollen, there will be no strawberries.

Now some varieties of strawberries are found to be destitute of stamens, and such will be barren unless there be planted among them some varieties that are known to have them. This fact should be known and understood by every one who proposes to cultivate a strawberry bed.

The Hovey strawberry, which has gained quite a celebrity for its size and productiveness, is one of those whose blossoms are not always supplied with stamens, and hence it is better to occasionally place in among them some of the more perfect varieties.

In recommending varieties, every one who has experimented has his favorites. It is not likely that every situation will suit every variety. We like the remarks of a correspondent of the *Ohio Farmer*, who has made out a list with remarks on their different qualities. We select from his list such as we are acquainted with and know do well in Maine. In doing this we by no means intend to say that many other kinds will not do as well as these, but having known something of these varieties, we recommend them to those who wish good varieties.

Burn's New Pine. Productive, large, extra good flavor, rather tender to carry to market, but desirable for eating at home.

Longworth's Prolific. This variety is very prolific in Ohio where it originated, and a very good bearer in Maine—medium size, fine form, firm, and bears carriage well—good flavor.

Boston Pine. This has not been many years in cultivation, but has proved an excellent early variety—good size, good flavor, and being perfect in flower is recommended as a fertilizer to the imperfect kinds.

Wilson's Albany. This variety we have found to be a hardy, good grower and very productive. It is rather tall when ripe; if left on the vines it will improve in this respect, but loses its firmness and cannot be so well carried to market as it can when gathered as soon as it is fully colored.

Hovey's Seedling. This has been pretty well known in Maine—requires good land, and a long of the Early Scarlet, or Boston Pine, or Longworth Prolific, or some other fertilizing variety mixed in with it and it will then give great crops. Its color is bright, but flavor not the highest.

Prolific Haulout. A few of these should be cultivated. They have such a pleasant aromatic perfume that when picked and mingled in with some of the above varieties they improve the richness of every variety.

Hooker. We find this to be hardy and productive, of good size and flavor, but rather later than Wilson's. It is firm, and continues in bearing longer than some varieties.

NEW SYSTEM OF STARTING CUTTINGS.

Heretofore it has been thought to be necessary, in starting cuttings of slips into root, that there should be earth or soil, or mould of some sort, in a pot, into which to put the cutting, and the whole be plunged into a hot-bed or placed in some situation where heat could be applied to the bottom; after all this, a great many of them would fail to take root. A new method has recently been adopted in Europe, and has been acted upon by gardeners in this country, and recommended as very sure and very simple.

We, some time ago, published the fact that moistened swamp moss in a pot, or tumbler was found to be a very excellent medium for starting cuttings, and that they seldom failed to take root. The July number of the *Gardener's Monthly* has an article on this subject, by John Watson of Rochester, N. Y., in which he quotes a letter from Wm. Preston, of England, to the editor of the *Gardener's Chronicle*. In this letter Mr. P. professes to have discovered the new method, and states that he can strike, or grow, an almost incalculable number of plants in a very small space without an atom of soil of any kind. He states that this method is applicable, not only to herbaceous plants as well as roses and such shrubs, but also apples, pears, plums, &c., indeed, any deciduous plant whatever can be propagated in the same manner. Nor has the age of the wood or cutting anything, hardly, to do with the process, for all kinds will strike and grow almost as fast, at least, from one to ten years' old wood.

Mr. Watson says that he, too, has been experimenting on the principle upon which he supposes the writer above acts, and finds that he can take

hold of his cutting, no matter of what description; green wood or grey wood, old or young, deciduous or evergreen, leaves on or leaves off, in bunches or any other way you choose to arrange them, and propagate them with a degree of certainty seldom or never before attained. So much for what can be done. Now, for the how it is to be done. The whole thing depends on putting the cutting into a solution where the cut surface will form a callus or scar-like surface, and after this is formed, and not till then, planting it out. You may tie on a bit of moist moss or plant it in sand or sandy soil with bottom heat.

The editor of the *Monthly*, Mr. Mechem, says: "Cuttings of grapes to be started may be suffered to lie mixed with damp moss for two weeks in a place secure from drying. Here they will form a slight callosity, and when planted will grow." He also observes that apple, peach, cherry and plum are now freely struck from cuttings, and many trees, once thought impossible to propagate in that way, are now raised very freely.

Mr. M. says, "in our own experiments we have found a common glass preserve jar or bottle, excellent for callosity hard cuttings, used in this way, viz: a sponge is pushed lightly into a bottom of the bottle and water poured in. Then all the water is drained out that will go out by inverting the bottle, and the cuttings placed loosely in. No cork is placed in the bottle, and evaporation takes place slowly, and the cutting soon forms the desired callus. The whole secret, in fact, is in allowing free access of air to all parts of the cutting, at the same time taking care that evaporation shall not be so excessive as to dry up the cutting."

A REMEDY FOUND.

What science and the doctors have thus far failed to discover, viz: the cause and cure of the cattle disease, as it has recently manifested itself in New England, has been accomplished, we are told, through the medium of Andrew Jackson Davis, the famous "Poughkeepsie Seer" and Spirit Medium. Having been requested by a correspondent to give the origin or cause of the disease, describe its symptoms and prescriptive conditions, and prescribe a preventive and cure, he replies at length in his paper, the *Herald of Progress*, a copy of which has been sent us by a friend. Although, as he says, with his natural vision he has never witnessed an instance of pleuro-pneumonia, he proceeds to describe the disease very much as it has been described by others, and then gives what he thinks will prove a preventive and cure. We probably have some among our readers who put faith in such revelations, and for their benefit we give the following:

"Our impression on the question of cure is, on the appearance of the first symptoms, that every case is curable in two ways, either by the breathing process or the sweating process. The first point to aim at is the expulsion of negative matter from the air passages. Stop all eating for several hours, and tie over the mouth and nostrils a large sponge, to act as a respirator, sitting snugly like a muzzle, permitting the air to pass in and out only through the pores of the sponge, which should be well supplied with large holes for this purpose.

Make a powerful decoction of elecampane root, flaxseed, and safflower bark. It will require not less than two pails full of this decoction to effect a cure of one animal. If the victim signifies thirst or disposition to eat, there is nothing better than barley mixed with this liquid. Let this be the occasional drink—very little at a time—unless you add a limited quantity of water.

Now get one gill of oil turpentine, one pint of alcohol, three quarts of vinegar, one ounce of camphor; mix and dissolve these in four quarts of the above liquid. Saturate the sponge-muzzle with this preparation, so that all respiration will take place through the atmosphere of these remedies. The animal will soon cease coughing or laboring for breath, and by sneezing and blowing will rapidly discharge the mucus from the lungs. Relief will be rapid. But the attendant is admonished not to abandon the treatment too soon; for the disease will not depart when symptoms subside, and may, therefore, return.

The sweating process will prove almost as effectual, and may, in advanced stages of the disorder, be combined with the medicated respirator.

Make a mammoth poultice of onions, with a very little meal, and well coated with powdered pulverized red pepper. Spread it on a horse blanket, (or some fabric as large and thick,) and envelop the creature's throat, neck, and as much of the head as possible. Bind it on tight enough to exclude the air.

Change this poultice at least once per day. Before doing so draw draft, bathe the chest and affected parts with equal parts of alcohol and linseed oil. During this process exclude the air as much as practicable. The sponge must be removed and washed out six or eight times per day, until the symptoms subside, then twice every twenty-four hours will be frequent enough.

Never dip the sponge in the liquid until it is perfectly cleansed of all the exudation from the creature's nostrils, lungs and mouth, for the expelled mucus is sufficient to reproduce the disease in the same system. For this reason inoculation would, in some cases, greatly mitigate and modify the disease.

Blowing, &c. can do no positive good. If the animal seems likely to die, and if you have other cattle not yet affected, be merciful enough to terminate its sufferings at once. Do not yourselves eat, nor sell, nor give away—nor let the cat or dog—or any other carnivorous animal taste a morsel of such diseased food, but bury it deep, and thus save others from the epidemic. We have entire confidence in the utility and efficaciousness of the foregoing impressions."

AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Those who feel interested in the progress of fruit culture in the United States are referred to the circular of this Society, published in another column. It will be seen that its eighth session will be held in Philadelphia on the 11th of Sept. next.

CURE FOR THE SCRATCHES. Take fresh slaked lime, and dust the affected parts well with it, twice a day. It will not cause the horse any uneasiness, and will be sure to effect a cure in a few days.

BULL'S GRAPERY.

L. H. Hildreth in a communication to the *Massachusetts Ploughman*, giving a few wayside notes in Concord, this speaks of Bull's Grapery and the Concord grape. I visited Mr. Bull at his Grapery, one mile south of the middle of Concord. With him grape-growing is a passion, a monomania of the pleasantest kind, that has proved very profitable to the community at large, as well as to himself. Eighteen years ago I remember him as a near neighbor of my brother-in-law, whom I used to visit. He was then trying to raise a seedling grape, superior to any that he had in bearing at that time.

After long repeated effort, fruiting a vast many different kinds, and testing them in various ways he decided that the Concord, as he named his pet, possessed all the good qualities of a superior grape, combined with great hardiness in the vine, and early ripening of the fruit. These two last facts were a desideratum that had not yet been attained and which renders the Concord grape more desirable than any other now grown in this part of the country.

The hardiness of the vine is proved to every passer by, that notices his vineyard, situated in a very frosty location, and he tells me that the vines in this situation do better without than with protection. The quality of the fruit is now well known as an eating grape, and he thinks as a wine grape, none will be more productive or profitable. He said that he measured a small plot of ground, gathered the grapes and pressed them, and that they yielded after the rate of 600 gallons per acre.

This would be nearly or quite three times as much as they consider a fair yield in the general west, which we consider the land par excellence for grape culture. I did not taste the wine, but he said good judges pronounced it of a fine, rich flavor.

PRECAUTIONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Secretary of the New Brunswick Board of Agriculture, Hon. J. Robb, has issued a circular to the farmers and stock-growers of the Province, in which he sets forth the facts of the prevalence of the long murrain among the cattle of New England, the symptoms and character of the disease, and strongly urges the utter and absolute exclusion of all cattle and raw hides from suspected countries. He says:

"No consideration of private gain or convenience will justify the least risk in this matter. Farmers, butchers, and dealers of all kinds, are hereby cautioned most seriously in regard to the import of cattle from without for this year, and urged to kill off, all cases as soon as known, and report the same to the proper authorities."

The farmers of Maine have had their attention strongly called to this subject by the Board of Agriculture there, and Mr. Goodale, the Secretary, has furthermore suggested that no cows or ewe lambs should be given to the butcher, until the pleuro-pneumonia has ceased to exist in New England."

CURRENT JELLY.

The current harvest is at hand, and the yearly recipes for making currant preserves, currant jelly and currant wine, must come in, of course, to the edification of the young, and the reminding of the old. As currant jelly is pleasant and useful to both the sick and the well, we give you the following directions for making it, which we find in the *Gardener's Monthly* for July:

"Squeeze the juice out of the currants, strain and measure it, put it in a copper or brass kettle and boil it until the scum ceases to rise; then, without taking the juice off the fire, stir in one pound of well refined sugar to every pint of juice and as soon as the sugar is fully dissolved—which will be in less than a minute—take it off and pour it into the vessels prepared to receive it." This jelly retains the beautiful crimson color of the currant much better than that made by the old mode.

For the Maine Farmer.

DAISY TROUBLES.

MR. EDITOR:—I have some daisies which are infested with a small green louse, that feeds upon the leaves, buds and stems of the plants; and they have almost destroyed them. If a decoction of aloes will kill these creatures, how strong will it do to apply it—in what proportion—to the plants? Will aloes have the same effect on ants? If you will answer our questions in the next number of your paper, or give us what other information you can, you will oblige

FLORA.

NOTE. We suspect that the insect referred to by "Flora" is the common "aphis." If so, a steep of aloes or quassia—say an ounce to a pint, if applied to them it will destroy them. We prefer quassia to aloes, as it is less sticky, or more cleanly to handle. Ants generally attend upon the aphids for the sake of feeding upon a probably sweetish liquor which they exude. Clear the aphids out and the ants will "vamoose" too.—Ed.

BARLEY.

In harvesting barley it is important to cut it at the right stage, when neither too green nor too ripe. If rather green, the grain shrinks, and is of light weight; if fully ripe, it shells easily, is liable to become discolored, and the straw is of less value. When the head begins to assume a reddish cast and drops down upon the straw, the proper period of harvesting has arrived—and, as for this the grain ripens rapidly, it should at once be cared for. It may be mown or cradled, or cut with a reaper; if the straw is long, it should be bound; if short, with proper forks it can be pitched at once from the swath, and stored without binding. Barley should be secured as soon as thoroughly dry, which will not be long in favorable weather.

Barley straw, well cured and not over ripe, is readily eaten by all kinds of neat stock, and is thought worth about the same per ton as corn-fodder or inferior hay. By elevating the straw-carrier above the lower sieves of the separator when threshing, the bearded chaff may be thrown aside, and thus it may be fed to sheep without the injury to the wool which otherwise occurs.—Country Gentleman.

NEW ENGLAND AND FRUIT RAISING.

The *Minnesota State News* begins an article on fruit raising in Minnesota, as follows:

"In our good old eastern home we revel in the delicious fruits of the orchard, as a matter of course, and never harbored a thought that we could ever be deprived of them." Such reminiscences and longings for fruit, are, probably, very common to those who have left New England to settle on the rich prairie lands of the west. The soil of the western prairies is not favorable to fruit raising. It is not the soil in which apple trees and pear trees thrive, and, therefore, all attempts to do a successful business at fruit raising, in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa, have failed. A diligent hunt might find in some of these states a few patches of soil in which apple and pear trees would grow well; but these would be exceptions to the general rule. The *Minnesota News* says: "Many attempts have been made to grow apples in this State, but with very indifferent success. Four years ago, at the Hennepin County Fair, in Minneapolis, four small specimens were introduced, for which a premium of ten dollars was awarded. They were raised, if we remember aright, by Rev. Mr. Pond, in the Minnesota valley. A large proportion of the young trees planted have perished, and our amateur orchardists have been much discouraged."

But the *News*, still hoping on, mentions that an experienced nurseryman, from Rochester, N. Y., is about to try his skill at fruit culture, on soil near the Falls of St. Anthony, and that he has an "undoubted conviction of success." Others have tried and failed before him. He will fail; and other failures will come after him; for the difficulty is more in the nature of the soil, than anywhere else. Generally, the soil of the western prairies resembles the black mud of New England swamps. Our farmers sometimes drain a rich swamp or bog, and make it dry enough for cultivation; and from such spots of carefully drained soil, they can secure great harvests of certain crops; but they never dream of planting orchards in such soil. For orchards, we go to fields and side hills, where the soil is lighter-colored, and has in it more gravel; in a word, where it is most unlike the swamps and the prairies. In Minnesota, the prairie soil has a mixture of sand, which, in general cultivation, gives it some advantages over that where there is no sand, keeping it from presenting such oceans of mud as may sometimes be seen lower down the Mississippi valley, and starting vegetation more rapidly, in the spring. But this mixture of sand does nothing to improve its capacity for fruit growing, nor even for growing winter wheat, which, as a general thing, does not succeed on the prairies.

It appears to us that the farmers of New England may learn something useful by considering this matter carefully. Ever since there began an emigration from New England to the magnificent prairie of the upper Mississippi region, it has been the fashion to undertake, and despite the rugged soil of New England, and to talk as if successful farming were impossible anywhere away from those prairies. But there is a mistake in such representations. Our soil may be rugged, but it will very readily produce some things which cannot be grown successfully on the prairies. We cannot have such fields of corn and spring wheat as they have in Illinois, nor such fields of grass as they will have there, when they shall turn from the wild growth of the prairies to the cultivation of grasses. But they, on the other hand, cannot have such apple and pear orchards as may be grown here. We cannot match the grain growing capacities of their soil, but we may excel them in the business of raising most kinds of fruit; and this fact indicates the policy that should be adopted by our farmers, if they would have their business become less toilsome and more profitable. They should plant orchards.

Those "four small specimens" of apples, for which a premium of ten dollars was paid, at the Hennepin County Fair, Minnesota, four years ago, are very suggestive. They show one important want of the West, which its own soil cannot supply. Ere long, the inhabitants of the upper Mississippi valley will be content by the million, and it will become an important part of the farming business of the western States to supply them with apples. If every available rod of land in New England were planted to apple trees of the hardiest and most useful kinds, there would be a ready and eager market for all the fruit they would produce; and the demand of this market would grow every year. Therefore plant orchards; set out apple trees; understand that on our soil, as a general thing, well tended orchards will be far more profitable than corn fields; and, after a few years, farming here at the east will become quite as profitable, and certainly quite as agreeable, as in any part of the country. On a New England farm, where the old, stereotyped methods of cultivation are continued, the hardest and most irksome toil of every season, is planting and hoeing corn. More work is done here on one acre of corn, than on twenty acres on the prairie; and this fact shows plainly that the old routine should be changed, and that our soil should be put to other uses.

If apple and pear orchards could be made to produce full crops, the next autumn after planting, we should see them more planted. It is the lack of an immediate return for the labor and expense that holds back so many from preparing such orchards. It seems to them that they have no time to work for distant results, and so they go on, planting and hoeing corn in the old way, as diligently as if that grain-growing prairie world, at the west, were as little known and used now, as it was seventy years ago. Some day, this will be different; our New England soil will be used with a juster appreciation of its real capabilities and its comparative value; and then we shall have a great deal more fruit culture, with many other improvements in our system of agriculture.—Worcester Spy.

POTATO APPLE DUMPLINGS. Boil any quantity of white meal potatoes; pare and wash them; then dredge in flour enough to form a dough; then roll out to about the thickness of pie crust, and make up the dumplings by putting an apple, pared, cored and quartered, to each. Boil them one hour.

BUTTER MAKING.

The philosophy of butter-making has long been studied, but it is very strange that certain phenomena, though easily accounted for on assumptions or facts universally admitted, have ever and do yet present difficulties which render the explanations, though the best we can give, still not quite satisfactory.

The fact that cream buried over night in a napkin in the earth will be better in the morning, indicates truth in the system proposed by the Frenchman in the article which we copy, and we think the way looks clear for a true explanation of the phenomena. We have heard the statement made on good authority that the butter globules in the cream have been entirely misapprehended, as to their structure and characteristics, which, if true, may lead to important improvements in our methods of butter-making.

NEW FRENCH SYSTEM. "A French chemist has invented a new mode of making butter, by means of a filter instead of a churn, the apparatus being of the most simple character. The filter is a kind of bag, formed of white felt, or even sheeting. The bag should resemble in shape, a military fatigue cap, only being much longer than deep. From each of the two corners issues a porous string, (a piece of ordinary wicking is the best,) destined to furnish an outlet for the liquid parts of the cream about to be placed inside the bag, which should be suspended from two rigid stems, to hold the corners in place. The filter being filled with cream, the whey or buttermilk will soon drip through the cloth, or pass out by means of the wick conductors. In the course of twenty-four or thirty hours, nothing but the cream will remain in the filter, and this will be as thick as the cheese known in Germany as "smear-case." The process is now half completed. The solidified cream is taken out and placed in a strong linen sack, the aperture of which is closed with a bit of twine. The whole is placed in a broad trough, or on a table, and vigorously kneaded with the two hands. In a few moments the sound of a slight splashing, and the issue of water, will indicate that the butter is made. There is no more to be done but to take out the contents of the sack and work out the buttermilk in the usual manner. Practical housekeepers will thoroughly appreciate the rapidity and economy of a process like this, which also has the advantage of insuring the purity of an article so abominably adulterated as the butter sold in cities is almost invariably."

HOW TO MOW.

A smile wreathes the lip of our veteran farmer, as he reads the heading of this article. Can an Editor teach me anything new in that line! Oh no, sir, perhaps not, but let us hint a word or two to your sons, or to some young men who have not such skillful fathers to teach them. We want them to learn this art aright, then they will never forget it.

This is one of the most fatiguing operations of farming, and the more so, as it has to be done in very warm weather. Any hints to lighten the labor will be very useful. In the first place, then, rise early, and begin before sunrise. By doing so, and having your scythe sharpened and in perfect order the night before, you may get half a day's work done by nine o'clock. The coolness of the morning air, and the dew on the grass, will both help along the labor. At nine o'clock you may retire to the house, or to some shady tree, and rest yourself for several hours, while your slow neighbor is sweating through the mid-day, and perhaps hurting himself by over-work and by taking down large draughts of cold drink to allay his thirst. Between two and three o'clock you may begin work again, refreshed and vigorous, and may labor till sunset with little fatigue.

By all means keep your scythe constantly in good order. Let it be adapted to the surface of the ground to be mowed. If that is level and free from obstructions, the scythe may be long and almost straight, and it will work easy. If the ground is broken, or covered with stones or low mounds, the scythe must be short and crooked. While the snath should not be too heavy, neither should it be so light as to tremble and shake in the mower's hand; also, let it never become loose from the blade, as this will cause it to catch on every obstruction, and require a great waste of strength to make it out. Many young mowers, in their haste to get over a certain piece of ground, often worry themselves by this little neglect.

It is very pleasant to mow in company, but young and inexperienced mowers should be careful how they put themselves against the brawny arms of older and stronger workmen. Many a promising young man has been injured for life by this ambition to be thought a great mower.

Hoping that our young laborers will be careful when following close to each other, we commend them to their noble work, and hope they will pass through the hay-harvest in good health, and gather abundant crops.—American Agriculturist.

PREPARATION OF COMPOSTS.

To a given quantity of stable manure, two or three times as much weathered or seasoned manure by bulk may be used. The manure may either be removed from the stables, and daily mixed with the appropriate amount of muck by shoveling the two together, at the heap, out of doors; or, as some excellent farmers prefer, a trench, water-tight, four inches deep and twenty inches wide, is constructed in the stable floor, immediately behind the cattle, and every morning a bushel-basketful of muck is put behind each animal. In this way the urine is perfectly absorbed by the muck, while the warmth of the freshly voided excrements so facilitates the fermentative process, that, according to Mr. Holbrook, of Brattleboro, Vt., who I believe first employed and described this method, much more muck can thus be well prepared for use in the spring, than by the ordinary mode of composting. When the dung and muck are removed from the stable, they should be well intermixed, and as fast as the compost is prepared it should be put into a compact heap and covered with a layer of muck several inches thick. It will then hardly require any shelter if used in the spring.

It *can* be prepared as easily as water, men following could be more likely to become butchers, for want of something to do, than philosophers, from the possession of leisure.

LIVE FOR SOMETHING.

Live for something, be not idle—Look about thee for employ! Sit not down to useless dreaming—Labor is the sweetest joy. Folded hands are ever weary. Selfish hearts are never gay. Life for thee hath many duties—Active be, then, while you may. Scatter blessings in thy pathway! Gentle words and cheering smiles, Better are than gold and silver, With their grief dispelling wiles. As the pleasant sunshine falleth, Ever on the grateful ear, So let sympathy and kindness, Gladly well the darkened hearth. Hearts there are oppressed and weary; Drop the tear of sympathy, Whisper words of hope and comfort, Give, and thy reward shall be, Joy unto thy soul returning, From this perfect fountain head. Freely as thou freely givest, Shall the grateful light be shed.

THE BATTLE OF THE BUGS.

The following experience with the bugs is thus humorously related by the editor of the *Portland Transcript*:

"We observe that several of our exchanges have commenced the annual campaign against that voracious marauder, the yellow striped bug. We desire to be heard on this matter. We think we have a right to our say. We have had our experience, and we mean to tell it.

Our acquaintance with this interesting little insect has not been of long continuance, but it has been quite intimate. We have learned to appreciate its industry, perseverance and sagacity; we may say in fact we have great respect for it. In our city garden it was unknown. We were occasionally visited by the great brown squash bug, which we massacred without mercy, but since becoming acquainted with the striped variety, we have learned to consider the former a harmless creature, quite moderate in its ravages, and altogether a very considerable bug. The first year we cultivated our present garden, we were unmolested by the yellow coated gentry. Squashes, cucumbers and pumpkins thrived beyond measure, and all thoughts of bugs were far from us. Indeed, in our confident security, we were led to believe the yellow striped bug, about which we had read so much in the agricultural papers, to be no better than a humbug or a bugbear. But, alas! this fatal security cost us dear! During the succeeding spring we noticed one morning a number of bugs with yellow backs, upon some of our promising vines. Presently we observed that they appeared to be decorating the leaves with a sort of lace-work, more ornamental than useful. We began to open our eyes to the state of the case, and concluded that the yellow striped bug had come at last. We have been more and more of the same opinion ever since. However, we were not to be frightened by a bug.

We resolved to take immediate and effectual measures to stop the ravages of the enemy. A friend said, put meal on the vines; we did, and the bugs grew fat on it! Try lime, said another; we tried it, and came to the conclusion that the plants had the worst of it. The bugs not only continued their ravages—they multiplied and increased; they came in swarms, and though we pursued them remorselessly with thumb and finger, they literally covered the vines. People told us they would only eat the tender leaves, but we found they not only ate the leaves, tender and tough, but the entire plant. To console us, some said their ravages would not continue long, but they came early in May, and staid till late in the summer. We began to think the habits of the creature were very imperfectly known—but had the consolation of feeling that we were in a fair way to become very familiar with them. Still we continued the contest—hopelessly, we confess, but we meant to fight till the last leaf was gone.

We put onions in the hills, we laid bits of camphor on nice white paper, we planted tomatoes, we sprinkled ashes, we covered with cotton batting—all in vain. The bugs snapped their wings and laughed in our face. Day by day the plants grew raggeder, until it made us feel poverty stricken to look at them. When we viewed the great gashes in the big leaves of our choicest plants, we felt like striking an attitude and exclaiming with Mark Anthony—

"See, what a rent the envious cause made!"

We did our best, but we were beaten; the yellow jackets remained masters of the field. A few forlorn looking plants we kept along by means of open boxes, but all our hopes of squashes were dashed to the ground. We had paid an extraordinary price for Hubbard seed, and never saw the color of that excellent variety of squash.

Thus ended the first campaign. We were beaten, but not put to flight. We camped on the field, intending to renew the contest another season. Remembering the prudent maxim, "in time of peace prepare for war," we spent all our leisure time during the winter in making covered boxes, and this Spring again took the field prepared for action. The plants came up, we clapped on the boxes, and felt secure. As the enemy did not appear so early as last year, we grew careless, and on morning found a nice large plant, that had been left exposed, literally alive with the bugs. It had not much life in it, however, by the time we had driven them off. The covered boxes, fortunately, proved too much for the voracious intruders, and baffled their efforts to flow to our pumpkin plants and made sad havoc. Animated by our love of pumpkin pie, we renewed the contest, and this time with a new weapon. We had lost all faith in any remedy, save the boxes, believing there is nothing subtlety or noxious or deadly to conquer the yellow striped bug, but the *New England Farmer*, having recommended spirits of turpentine, applied by a hen feather or on cotton put on a stick and stuck in the hills in a slanting direction over the plants, and several of our contemporaries declaring they had tried it with success, we concluded to experiment with it. Thus far it has partially succeeded. We are inclined to think the bugs don't like it, but they will endure the pungent odor for a time rather than go hungry. In our somewhat trying experience, we have found open boxes the least objectionable remedy. Covered boxes are more effectual, but they exclude the light too much. The bugs will rarely enter the open boxes, and the plants have the benefit of air and light.

And now, having learned so much of the habits of these creatures, we want to learn something of their origin. Whence do they come? Did they enter our garden the second year in the manure, or did they spy us out from afar and colonize upon us? In all our researches in insect literature we find very little written about the yellow striped bug. We have looked at the creature through the microscope, and have come to the conclusion that, like man, it is "fearfully and wonderfully made," and like vice,

"—is a monster of so frightful mien, As to be hated, needs but to be seen."

We have discovered also that the creature carries its young family on its back—and a very numerous family it is, too. You will now and then find a bug bearing on its back a mass of what has the appearance of being minute, brownish eggs. Looking at these through the microscope, you will be surprised to find each and every one of them a full formed bug, alive and kicking, yet all apparently glued to their mother's back. We have counted fifty on the back of a single bug. Occasionally the parent bug will pass its fore leg over the young, as if administering food, and at other times it will give them a thrashing which causes a great commotion among them. We make sure work with all the bugs with brown bunches, and we would like to know where the young are deposited when they finally quit the parental back.

AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The Eighth Session of this Institution will be held in the city of Philadelphia, commencing on the 11th of September next, at 10 o'clock A. M., and will be continued for several days.

This Society, the first National Institution for the promotion of Pomology, was organized in the year 1848. Its sessions have brought together the most distinguished cultivators of our country; its transactions have embodied their various researches and reports of experience, and its Catalogue of Fruits has become the acknowledged standard of American Pomology.

Its example has created a great taste for this science, inspired pomologists with greater zeal, and called into existence many kindred associations. Its progress has been remarkable and gratifying, but it still has a great work to perform. Its general catalogue should, from time to time, be enlarged and perfected, and local catalogues formed, embracing the fruits adapted to each State and Territory of the Union. The last of these suggestions was made by the Chairman of the General Fruit Committee, at the seventh session of the Society, in the year 1858. This has been carefully considered, and is deemed worthy of special attention. It is, therefore, earnestly recommended that each State Pomological, Horticultural, or Agricultural Society, charge its Fruit Committee with the duty of collecting information, and presenting the same, with descriptive lists of fruits adapted to their location.

The importance of this subject, and the increasing value of the fruit crop of the United States, call for a prompt and cordial response to this request—for a careful preparation of said list, and for a full and able representation, at the approaching session, from all parts of the country.

The various State Committees of this Society are expected to submit accurate and complete reports of the condition and progress of fruit culture, within their limits, together with definite answers to each of the following questions. These reports, it is desired, should be forwarded to the Chairman of the General Fruit Committee, Hon. SAMUEL WALKER, Roxbury, Mass., as far as possible, as early as the 1st of September, or the Provisions of British, Horticultural, or Agricultural Society, charge its Fruit Committee with the duty of collecting information, and presenting the same, with descriptive lists of fruits adapted to their location.

What are the six and twelve best varieties of the PEACH for family use on the Peach stock? What varieties, and how many of each, are best adapted to a Peach orchard of one hundred or of one thousand trees?

What are the six and twelve best varieties of the PEAR for family use on the Pear stock? What varieties, and how many of each, are best adapted to a Peach orchard of one hundred or of one thousand trees?

Answers to these questions should be made from reliable experience, and with reference to the proximity or remoteness of the market.

Held, as this convention will be, in a city accessible from all parts of the country, it is anticipated that the coming session will be one of the most useful the Society has ever held. Societies, therefore, in every State and Territory, are requested to send such a number of delegates as they may choose to elect. Fruit-growers, Nurserymen, and all others interested in the art of Pomology, are invited

MAINE FARMER

ed: **NEW POST OFFICE:** A post office has been established at Rice's Hill, Farmingdale, to be called the West Farmingdale office—S. T. Cannon, P. M.

CONNECTION. We have seen it stated in several of our exchanges that Dennis Berry was injured by the premature discharge of a cannon at the firing of the Douglas salute in this city, but this is entirely untrue. The cannon was fired by Mr. Berry in still alive and at least accounts were doing well, and no fatal result was apprehended.

New Paper. A new Republican paper has been started in Lewiston, entitled "*The Lewiston Republican*," by H. C. Johnson, editor and proprietor. We have received the first number, which is of respectable size, good typographical execution, and ably edited.

Mr. Warren C. Plummer is announced as assistant editor of the *Aroostook Pioneer*.

☛ A fire occurred on the 4th inst. at Nihil, Mo., destroying property to the value of \$50,000, of which \$19,000 is covered by insurance.

☛ Wm. G. Cumming of Halifax, N. S., was killed in that city by being struck on the head by a stone thrown from a crowd.

CHICAGO VESSELS FOR BOSTON. The Chicago Journal of Friday last states that three vessels, the barque Norman, the brig J. H. Harman, and the schooner Gem, cleared that day for Boston all loaded with corn, amounting in the aggregate to 49,618 bushels. These are the first shipments to Boston direct ever made from that port.—Boston Journal.

DEATH BY THE EXPLOSION OF A PERCUSSION CAP FACTORY. In Brooklyn, a workman was blown a distance of 25 feet into a creek, and "astonished every body" by swimming across unharmed.

